

AMENDMENTS TO CLAIMS:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) An output device that operates according to data received from a host device, said output device comprising:

a volatile memory that temporarily stores operating parameter values obtained from the processing of specific one or more commands from said host device;

a memory initialization processor that initializes said volatile memory in response to a specific input, said specific input being one of the power to the output device turning on, a reset signal to reset the output device, and an initialization command from the host device;

a controller that stores operating parameter values into said volatile memory in response to one or more first commands from the host device, and controls said the output device based on the operating parameter values stored in said volatile memory;

a first operating parameter controller that stores-saves operating parameter data stored in said volatile memory into a nonvolatile memory ~~operating parameter data stored in said volatile memory in response to a first to~~ a second command from said the host device, said operating parameter data comprising one or more of said operating parameter values; and

a second operating parameter controller that stores-loads operating parameter data stored in said nonvolatile memory into said volatile memory in response to a third command from the host device; a specific input

wherein the second operating parameter controller is further adapted to store specific information in response to a sixth command, from the host device, the specific information being indicative of whether operating parameter data stored in said nonvolatile memory is automatically loaded after the memory initialization process;

wherein the second operating parameter controller is further adapted to automatically copy said operating parameter data from said nonvolatile memory to said volatile memory after the memory initialization process only when the specific information indicates that operating parameter data stored in said nonvolatile memory is automatically loaded.

2. (Currently Amended) The output device as in claim 1, wherein said nonvolatile memory has a plurality of parameter memory areas for storing respective sets of operating parameter data;; and

~~said specific input being a second command from said host device, and~~

said second operating parameter controller ~~storing~~ loads into said volatile memory operating parameter data ~~stored in~~ from a selected one of said parameter memory areas, said ~~one selected~~ parameter memory area being specified by said ~~second~~ third command.

3. (Canceled)

4. (Currently Amended) The output device as in claim ~~3~~ 1, wherein said nonvolatile memory has a plurality of parameter memory areas for storing respective sets of operating parameter data;; and

said second operating parameter controller automatically loads ~~stores~~ into said volatile memory operating parameter data from a selected one of said parameter memory areas after the memory initialization process, said ~~one selected~~ parameter memory area being specified by the specific information ~~a third command from said host device~~.

5. (Original) The output device as in claim 1, wherein said second operating parameter controller responds to a lack of operating parameter data in said nonvolatile memory by storing a predetermined default set of operating parameter data into said volatile memory.

6. (Original) The output device as in claim 1, wherein said second operating parameter controller stores predetermined default operating parameter data into said volatile memory in response to a fourth command from said host device.

7. (Currently Amended) The output device as in claim 1, wherein said nonvolatile memory has a plurality of parameter memory areas for storing respective sets of operating parameter data; and

said first operating parameter controller ~~stores~~ saves operating parameter data from said volatile memory as one of said sets of operating parameter data into a selected one of said parameter memory areas of the nonvolatile memory, said selected one parameter memory area being specified by said first command.

8. (Currently Amended) The output device as in claim ~~1~~ 7, wherein said first operating parameter controller stores in said nonvolatile memory identification information specified by said first command ~~and having a specific correlation to~~ for identifying the data set of the selected operating parameter data.

9. (Original) The output device as in claim 1, wherein said first operating parameter controller determines whether an operating parameter value in a target nonvolatile memory location is equal to the operating parameter data that is to be copied from said volatile memory to said target nonvolatile memory location, and overwrites said operating parameter value only if it is not equal.

10. (Currently Amended) The output device as in claim 1, further comprising a transmitter ~~for reading that reads~~ operating parameter data from said nonvolatile memory and sending sends the read data to ~~said the~~ the host device in response to a fifth command from ~~said the~~ the host device.

11. (Currently Amended) The output device as in claim 8, further comprising a transmitter ~~for reading that reads~~ said identification information from said nonvolatile memory and sending sends the read identification information to ~~said the~~ the host device in response to a fifth command from ~~said the~~ the host device.

12. (Currently Amended) An output device control method for controlling an output device that operates according to data received from a host device, said control method comprising:

(a) temporarily storing in a volatile memory operating parameter values in response to one or more commands from the host device ~~obtained from the processing of specific one or more commands from said host device;~~

(b) controlling ~~said the~~ output device based on the operating parameter values stored in said volatile memory;

(c) ~~transferring saving~~ operating parameter data from stored in said volatile memory to a nonvolatile memory in response to a first second command from said the host device, said operating parameter data comprising one or more ~~of said operating parameter values; and~~

(d) loading ~~transferring~~ operating parameter data from stored in said nonvolatile memory into said volatile memory in response to a third command from the host device ~~a specific input;~~

(e) initializing said volatile memory in response to a specific input, said specific input being one of the power to the output device turning on, a reset signal to reset the output device, and an initialization command from the host device;

(f) storing specific information in response to a sixth command from the host device, the specific information being indicative of whether operating parameter data stored in said nonvolatile memory is automatically loaded after the memory initialization process; and

(g) automatically loading said operating parameter data from said nonvolatile memory into said volatile memory after step (e) only when the specific information indicates that operating parameter data stored in nonvolatile memory is to be automatically loaded.

13. (Currently Amended) The output device control method as in claim 12, wherein said nonvolatile memory has a plurality of parameter memory areas for storing respective sets of operating parameter data; and

~~said specific input is a second command from said host device, and~~

~~said step (d) comprises~~ transferring loading into said volatile memory operating parameter data stored in from a selected one of said parameter memory areas, said one selected parameter memory area being specified by said second third command.

14. (Canceled)

15. (Currently Amended) The output device control method ~~as in of claim 14~~ 12, wherein said nonvolatile memory has a plurality of parameter memory areas for storing respective sets of operating parameter data; and

step (dg) comprises ~~transferring automatically loading into~~ said volatile memory operating parameter data ~~stored in from a selected one of said parameter memory areas after step (e), said one selected parameter memory area being specified by the specific information a third command from said host device.~~

16. (Original) The output device control method as in claim 12, wherein step (d) comprises storing predetermined default operating parameter data into said volatile memory when no operating parameter data are stored in said nonvolatile memory.

17. (Original) The output device control method as in claim 12, wherein step (d) comprises storing predetermined default operating parameter data into said volatile memory in response to a fourth command from said host device.

18. (Currently Amended) The output device control method ~~as in of claim 12~~, wherein said nonvolatile memory has a plurality of parameter memory areas for storing respective sets of operating parameter data; ~~wherein and~~

step (c) ~~comprises includes~~ transferring said saving operating parameter data from said volatile memory as one of said sets of operating parameter data into a selected one of said parameter memory areas of the nonvolatile memory, said selected one parameter memory area being specified by said first command.

19. (Currently Amended) The output device control method ~~as in of claim 12~~ 18, wherein step (c) comprises storing into said nonvolatile memory identification information specified by said first command for identifying the data set of the in ~~correlation with a corresponding one of said selected sets of operating parameter data.~~

20. (Original) The output device control method as in claim 12, wherein step (c) comprises determining whether an operating parameter value already stored in said nonvolatile memory equals a corresponding operating parameter value in said volatile memory that is to be saved, and transferring the operating parameter value in said nonvolatile memory only when said values are not equal.

21. (Currently Amended) The output device control method ~~as in~~ of claim 12, further comprising:

(f~~h~~) reading operating parameter data from said nonvolatile memory and sending the read data to ~~said the~~ host device in response to a fifth command from ~~said the~~ host device.

22. (Currently Amended) The output device control method ~~as in~~ of claim 19, further comprising:

(f~~h~~) reading identification information from said nonvolatile memory and sending the read information to ~~said the~~ host device in response to a fifth command from ~~said the~~ host device.

23. (Currently Amended) A control method suitable for a machine-readable data storage medium storing a program of instructions executable by an intermediary machine to perform said control method for interfacing a host machine with an output device, said control method comprising:

(a) temporarily storing in a volatile memory operating parameter values in response to one or more commands from the host device ~~obtained from the processing of specific one or more commands from said host device;~~

(b) controlling ~~said the~~ output device based on the operating parameter values stored in said volatile memory;

(c) ~~transferring~~ loading operating parameter data ~~from stored in said~~ volatile memory into a nonvolatile memory in response to a ~~first~~ second command from ~~said the~~ host device, said operating parameter data comprising one or more ~~of said~~ operating parameter values; ~~and~~

(d) loading ~~transferring~~ operating parameter data ~~from stored in said~~ nonvolatile memory into said volatile memory in response to a third command from the host device; ~~a specific input~~

(e) initializing said volatile memory in response to a specific input, said specific input being one of the power to the output device turning on, a reset signal to reset the output device, and an initialization command from the host device;

(f) storing specific information in response to a sixth command from the host device, the specific information being indicative of whether operating parameter data stored in said nonvolatile memory is automatically loaded after the memory initialization process; and

(g) automatically loading said operating parameter data from said nonvolatile memory into said volatile memory after step (e) only when the specific information indicates that operating parameter data stored in nonvolatile memory is to be automatically loaded.

24. (Currently Amended) The control method of claim 23, wherein said nonvolatile memory has a plurality of parameter memory areas for storing respective sets of operating parameter data, and

~~said specific input is a second command from said host device, and~~

~~said step (d) comprises transferring loading into said volatile memory operating parameter data stored in a~~ from a selected ~~one of said parameter memory areas, said one selected parameter area being specified by said second~~ third ~~command.~~

25. (Canceled)

26. (Currently Amended) The control method of claim ~~25~~ 23, wherein said nonvolatile memory has a plurality of parameter memory areas for storing respective sets of operating parameter data; and

~~step (dg) comprises transferring automatically loading into said volatile memory operating parameter data stored in~~ from a selected ~~one of said parameter memory areas after step (e), said one selected parameter memory area being specified by~~ the specific information ~~a third command from said host device.~~

27. (Original) The control method of claim 23, wherein step (d) comprises storing predetermined default operating parameter data into said volatile memory when no operating parameter data are stored in said nonvolatile memory.

28. (Original) The control method of claim 23, wherein step (d) comprises storing predetermined default operating parameter data into said volatile memory in response to a fourth command from said host device.

29. (Currently Amended) The control method of claim 23, wherein said nonvolatile memory has a plurality of parameter memory areas for storing respective sets of operating parameter data; ~~wherein and~~

~~step (c) comprises~~ includes transferring saving said operating parameter data from said volatile memory as one of said sets of operating parameter data into one of a selected one of said parameter memory areas of the nonvolatile memory, said selected one parameter memory area being specified by said first command.

30. (Currently Amended) The control method of claim ~~23~~29, wherein step (c) comprises storing into said nonvolatile memory identification information specified by said first command for identifying the data set of the in correlation ~~with a corresponding one of said sets~~ selected set of operating parameter data.

31. (Original) The control method of claim 23, wherein step (c) comprises determining whether an operating parameter value already stored in said nonvolatile memory equals a corresponding operating parameter value in said volatile memory that is to be saved, and transferring the operating parameter value in said nonvolatile memory only when said values are not equal.

32. (Currently Amended) The control method of claim 23, further comprising:

(~~fh~~) reading operating parameter data from said nonvolatile memory and sending the read data to ~~said the~~ host device in response to a fifth command from ~~said the~~ host device.

33. (Currently Amended) The control method of claim 30, further comprising:

(fh) reading identification information from said nonvolatile memory and sending the read information to ~~said the~~ host device in response to a fifth command from ~~said the~~ host device.

34. (Original) The control method of claim 23, wherein said data storage medium comprises one of a compact disc, a floppy disk, a hard disk, a magneto-optical disk, a digital video disk, a magnetic tape, and a semiconductor memory.

35. (New) The output device as in claim 1, wherein if said nonvolatile memory does not have enough available storage capacity to save all parameter values in said volatile memory, then only a pre-selected set of the parameter values in the volatile memory are stored into the nonvolatile memory.

36 (New) The output device control method as in claim 12, wherein if said nonvolatile memory does not have enough available storage capacity to save all parameter values in said volatile memory, then only a pre-selected set of the parameter values in the volatile memory are transferred to the nonvolatile memory.

37. (New) The control method of claim 23, wherein if said nonvolatile memory does not have enough available storage capacity to save all parameter values in said volatile memory, then only a pre-selected set of the parameter values in the volatile memory are transferred to the nonvolatile memory.